

Christmas Holiday Facts

December 16, 2016



Christmas tree facts:

1. One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
2. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
3. A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

Christmas tree safety tips:

1. Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
2. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
3. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
4. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
5. Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
6. Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
7. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
8. Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
9. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

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After Christmas

1. Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
2. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
3. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Final Tip:

Ensure smoke alarms are functioning (new battery) and do not remove or disconnect smoke alarms during preparation of meals. You can request a smoke alarm installation by clicking on the link below and filling out the request.

Smoke Alarm Request: <https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/SmokeDetectorRequest>

Last but not least, the Alexandria Fire Department wants you to have a safe and enjoyable holiday!!!!